Applicant: Feix et al.
Appl. No. 10/534,527
Amdt. dated April 21, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated November 19, 2007

Remarks

Objection to Claim 4

The examiner objects to claim 4, stating "the clamping force" should be changed to --clamping pressure-- to maintain consistency between claims 2 and 4.

Claim 4 is canceled herein, rendering the objection moot. However, care was taken with new claim 21 to use the term --clamping pressure-- to maintain claim consistency.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 9-10, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over European reference EP 0 987 370 in view of Japanese reference 09037413.

The claims have been amended herein in a manner rendering the art rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 4 has been canceled herein, but newly added claim 21 is equivalent to claim 4 rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims 1 and 2. Allowance of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Rejected claims 9-10, 14, and 18 have been amended herein to depend from allowable claim 21.

Claims 3, 5-8, 11-13, 15-17, and 19, 20 have been amended herein to depend from allowable claim 21

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Some of the dependent claims have been further amended to improve the form of the claim or to include different or modified limitations.
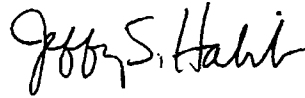
Based on the foregoing, allowance of dependent claims 3, and 5-20 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The application is now in condition for allowance. If questions remain, the examiner is invited to contact counsel of record to resolve same.

Respectfully submitted,

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